

the right strategy to deal with both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

As with the ISG, I believe fresh eyes are needed now to examine U.S. policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The security situation continues to erode as evidenced by coordinated insurgent attacks on heavily fortified U.S. and NATO compounds just this week. The Taliban still finds safe haven in the tribal wilderness of Pakistan and the ISI actively funds terrorist groups.

Given these and other concerns on the ground in Afghanistan, I continue to be puzzled why you, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary Clinton are not supporting the Af/Pak Study Group idea in the same manner that Secretary Rumsfeld and other Bush administration officials supported the ISG. Having the experience of serving on the ISG and now serving as Secretary of Defense with a Democratic president (who I acknowledge inherited the war in Afghanistan), you are in a unique position to make this group a reality. The authorization and funding for the Af/Pak Study Group in the House-passed Defense Appropriations bill gives you the authority to create this group today.

I have to tell you that I continue to be disappointed that your staff has yet to contact former Ambassador Peter Tomsen to discuss his book, *The Wars of Afghanistan*. His book provides insightful information on the tribal structure of both Afghanistan and Pakistan and the political allegiances that underlie all actions in the region. I believe his knowledge and experience in this region would be invaluable in formatting future policy in South Asia. I respectfully ask again, please take advantage of his work and meet with him as soon as possible.

Leon, I don't have the answers on Afghanistan. Perhaps current U.S. strategy is the best way forward. But we owe it to the men and women in uniform who have served and continue to serve there—some paying the ultimate sacrifice—to know definitively. I continue to believe that fresh eyes from outside government focused on assessing the situation is the prudent action to take. I ask that you take the advice of those who support an Af/Pak Study Group, including Jim Dobbins, General Charles Krulak, Ryan Crocker, who I spoke with prior to his appointment as ambassador to Afghanistan, and other prominent Americans with experience in this region.

I believe it would be a sign of strength to appoint a study group and let the American people know that the administration is willing to examine all possible policies to achieve a successful outcome in this troubled region.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,  
Member of Congress.

#### CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

#### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the United States is familiar with its own stories of brave men and women who fought to break the bonds of tyranny and form a new democracy. The walls of this chamber and the surrounding Capitol complex remind us daily of our proud history. But I want to share with you today the story of another like minded group

of individuals on the other side of the world who also dared to demand freedom for their people. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the centennial anniversary of Republic of China in Taiwan.

One hundred years ago, on October 10th, 1911, under the inspiration of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, the Republic of China began by throwing off the bonds of the Wuchang dynasty in order to create the first Republic in Asia. This year the Republic of China (Taiwan) celebrates the centennial of its National Independence Day, also known as "Double Ten Day".

The United States and Taiwan not only share a similar story of self-determination but we continue to maintain a strong and vital friendship. The people of Taiwan have made clear through the years, their appreciation and gratitude for the support the United States has provided Taiwan through the decades. This friendship has been evidenced through investment and economic development, through cultural and social exchanges, and even through the military support shared between our two peoples. Taiwan has stood with the United States to combat global terrorism; and the people of Taiwan have always given generously in our greatest times of need. Throughout the past ten decades we have become not just allies, but great friends.

As the Republic of China (Taiwan) enters into her second century of democracy, it is just as important that the United States stand with her 23 million citizens to face the challenges of the next hundred years. Surely there will be struggles, political and economic, at home and abroad. As we continue to engage other nations around the globe, we must remember that in our Taiwanese friends we have a nation ready to stand with us in the effort to promote freedom, tolerance, and democracy.

On this very special day, the United States joins with the Taiwanese people to recognize the sacrifice of those who made Double Ten Day possible so many years ago, and we reaffirm that our friendship remains steadfast. I ask my colleagues to please join me in extending to President Ma Ying-jeou the good wishes of the United States House of Representatives on this centennial anniversary.

#### IN HONOR OF THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MICHAEL CHURCH

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 160th anniversary of St. Michael Catholic Church in Independence, Ohio.

St. Michael Catholic Church was founded in 1851 when Bishop Amadeus Rappe commissioned Father Nicholas Roupp to begin celebrating Mass in Independence, Ohio. There had recently been an influx in the area of Catholic Swiss and German immigrants. After operating for several decades as a mission church, in 1888, the Cleveland Catholic Diocese raised the community to parochial status and Father Peter Scerer became St. Michael's first pastor. After two pastors in just a couple of years, St. Michael Parish reverted back to a mission and was served by the Jesuit Fathers of St. Mary Parish.

Throughout the 20th Century, St. Michael Parish experienced many renovations and ex-

pansions. In 1900, the congregation welcomed its third pastor, Father Albert Aust. Under the leadership of Father Aust, St. Michael Parish thrived and added a new rectory, school, and in 1908, teachers from the Notre Dame Sisters. The parish later added a sister's residence in 1934, built a new school in 1950, erected a new church in 1955 and new rectory in 1968. In 1990, a new social hall and gymnasium were constructed and named Rappe Hall, in honor of Bishop Amadeus Rappe. Most recently, in 2001, St. Michael completed an interior renovation of the current church on Chestnut Road.

The St. Michael congregation will celebrate its 160th anniversary in conjunction with the annual Feast of St. Michael. This year's celebration will include an Oktoberfest dinner, arcade games, and donations will be collected for both the St. Michael School Student Council's "Jeans for January" drive and St. Vincent DePaul Society's Food Pantry.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the 160 years of service that St. Michael Catholic Church has provided to the parishioners of Independence, Ohio.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, due to a previous commitment, I unavoidably missed two votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on passage of rollcall 725, and "nay" on passage of rollcall 726.

#### REED COLLEGE CENTENNIAL

#### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this year one of the nation's top liberal arts colleges in the heart of my Congressional District in Portland, Oregon is celebrating its centennial. Reed College began its first classes in 1911 with 50 students—26 men and 24 women—and five faculty members and has grown to 1,400 students and 135 faculty. Committed to intellectual rigours and academic freedom, Reed has served as a groundbreaking model for liberal arts colleges over the past 100 years.

Reed's commitment to academic excellence is reflected in the student body and faculty. All students are expected to complete an original work in a major subject area—a senior thesis. A higher percentage of Reed graduates go on to earn Ph.Ds across fields than do graduates of all but three other U.S. colleges and universities. Students regularly win Fulbright, Watson, National Science Foundation, and other fellowships, and the faculty has received national recognition for its commitment to teaching.

While "Reedies"—as students call themselves—are widely known for studying—sleeping—and studying some more, they engage in a broad range of campus and civic activities. One such tradition dates back to 1913 and is